

# **Summary of the Alabama Energy and Residential Codes (AERC) Effective October 1, 2012**

## **Energy Codes**

**\*\*Energy provisions of the AERC are mandatory for all jurisdictions statewide**

Commercial:

- 2009 International Energy Conservation Code (2009 IECC) – with amendment

Residential:

- 2009 International Residential Code (2009 IRC) with amendments

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### **Amendments to the Commercial Energy Codes include:**

- Requiring Pool Heaters to comply with the ICC Fuel Gas Code or the NFPA 58 as appropriate, and with the NEC.

### **Amendments to the energy chapter of the 2009 IRC for residential construction include:**

- Deleting the section for Protection of exposed foundation insulation
- Adding a section stating that above code programs must be approved by the board
- Making the certificate stating the insulation R-values, U-factors and SHGC for fenestration voluntary instead of mandatory
- Substituting the Insulation and Fenestration Requirements from the 2009 IECC which are slightly more stringent
- The section for slab-on-grade floor insulation was deleted.
- The requirement for programmable thermostats was deleted.
- The requirement for R-8 duct insulation was delayed until July 1, 2013
- Duct Leakage testing is not required until July 1, 2013

# Residential Building Codes

## **Amendments to the building codes of the 2009 IRC for residential construction include:**

- The length of dryer exhaust ducts was changed to 35 feet.
- The firewall between townhouses was changed to a 2-hr firewall
- For HVAC duct leakage the following was added: All metal to metal connections shall be mechanically fastened. All duct connections shall be sealed.
- A new section on Duct Leakage was added.
- A change was made to Piping Support to include equipment as well as appliances.
- Electrical installations in compliance with the 2008 National Electrical Code® (NEC®) (National Fire Protection Association [NFPA 70-2008]) or later editions shall be permitted.

*The Alabama Energy and Residential Codes (AERC) Board, through Act 2010-185, was tasked with adopting residential and commercial energy codes, which were mandated by the American Recover and Reinvestment Act, and residential building codes.*

*The AERC Board has designated October 1, 2012 as the implementation date for adoption and enforcement of the Alabama Energy and Residential Code.*

*The AERC Board has no authority over enforcement of the code, nor can it provide arbitration for any code issues.*

## **HOW DOES THIS AFFECT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS?**

### **State or County Governments**

- CANNOT amend AERC provisions required by federal law or regulation (energy codes – ARRA)
- CANNOT adopt any code after March 2010 which conflicts with the AERC
- CAN amend AERC as local conditions require
- CANNOT amend AERC to mandate residential fire sprinklers

### **Municipal Governments which do not have a code in effect March 2010**

- CANNOT amend AERC provisions required by federal law or regulation (energy codes – ARRA)
- CANNOT adopt any energy or residential code other than the AERC
- CAN amend AERC as local conditions require
- CANNOT amend AERC to mandate residential fire sprinklers

### **Municipal Governments which do have a code in effect March 2010**

- CAN change or amend their existing code, except:
  - CANNOT amend provisions required by federal law or regulation (energy codes – ARRA)
  - CANNOT mandate or restrict installation of fire sprinklers in one- or two-family dwellings, except
    - \* A municipality that has already enacted an ordinance related to the installation of sprinklers CAN continue to enforce or amend such ordinance